



# NEWS RELEASE

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

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Press Release 03-07  
Dec. 6, 2002  
For External Release

## **Certification places Defense Civilian Pay System among leading software projects**

ARLINGTON, VA (Dec. 6) -- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently earned the Software Engineering Institute's software Capability Maturity Model Level 4 rating for its the Defense Civilian Pay System project.

The Nov. 15 certification places the DFAS project team supporting DCPS at DFAS Technical Services Organization in Pensacola among the top 5 percent of all assessed organizations in government and commercial industries. By satisfying the key process areas for Level 4 (Quantitative Process Management and Software Quality Management), the assessment team found the DCPS software engineering process fully satisfies SEI's criteria for a highly mature, managed process. At this level, projects use metrics and statistical control techniques to attain predictable results in the quality, effort, schedule and size of its software releases.

"People defending the United States depend on DFAS systems to ensure their pay and benefits are delivered on time and on target," said Thomas R. Bloom, DFAS director. "To give these men and women confidence and peace of mind, our systems must maintain the highest quality and reliability possible. We achieve that standard of quality by following disciplined processes that produce measurable results. This certification reflects great work by the team involved and is another seal of excellence for the DFAS family."

DCPS is the standard automated information system for civilian payroll within the Defense Department. It currently supports biweekly pay processing for about 683,000 appropriated fund civilians in the Defense Department, the National Security Agency and the Executive Office of the President. The DCPS project received CMM Level 2 maturity rating in October 1996 and a Level 3 rating in January 1999. The Level 4 rating follows months of preparation by the 102-person team and culminated in a two-week on-site software process evaluation by an assessment team made up of internal and external SEI CMM experts from government and private industry.

"As the DCPS system manager, I see the real world benefits of the applied CMM all the time, whether it's the high degree of confidence we attain in schedule and cost estimates for our releases or in the typically high quality of software and other work products," said Sandra Barrineau, DFAS Civilian Pay.

DFAS' commitment to SEI's CMM has generated significant results according to program officials. The project far exceeds average software engineering quality by achieving a defect rate of less than 2 defects per 1,000 functions as compared to the industry average rate of 15 per 1,000 functions cited by Gartner, an information technology research firm.

"CMM ratings are an important part of our corporate TSO balanced scorecard since they are a relatively independent measure of the true maturity level of our software engineering processes in DFAS," said Jerry Head, DFAS Technical Services Organization director. "We see SEI's CMM as a key piece of our strategic road map for improving delivery of technical services."

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SEI is a federally funded research and development center sponsored by the Department of Defense through the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. Established at Carnegie Mellon University in 1984, the SEI technical program includes 225 members from government, industry and academia. SEI provides leadership in advancing software engineering quality. SEI accomplishes this mission by promoting the evolution of software engineering from an ad hoc, labor-intensive activity to a discipline that is well managed and supported by technology.

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### **Related Links**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service -- <http://www.dfas.mil>  
Software Engineering Institute -- <http://www.sei.cmu.edu>  
Gartner Research -- <http://www4.gartner.com>

### **About DFAS**

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is the world's largest finance and accounting operation. The agency disburses more than \$1.38 billion per average business day. In fiscal 2002, DFAS paid 5.4 million people, processed more than 10.6 million contractor and vendor invoices and handled nearly 7.3 million travel payments while reducing overall costs to customers by \$136 million. For more about the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, please visit <http://www.dfas.mil> or call.

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